



# Newsletter June 2022

## Excursions

### *Chardonnay Affair*



This charter excursion at the end of May was well patronised and many favourable comments were received by GCVR crew from the passengers.

Fortunately the rain that was forecast held off until the evening.

### *Queen's Birthday*

A few days before Queen's Birthday Weekend, it was discovered that there had been at least one Covid positive passenger on the previous excursion. Additionally three of the train crew who operated that excursion had tested positive for Covid, so as a precaution, the planned Queen's Birthday excursions were cancelled.

These were the last planned excursions of the 2021-2022 operating season, so Wa165 is now undergoing Winter maintenance.

### *2022-2023 Season*

There is no definite news about how many cruise ships will be interested in using the train as yet, but hopefully there will be some confirmations of bookings soon.

# Workshop Catch-up

## *Steam Whistle.*

One of the most important items on Wa165 is the steam whistle, judging by the number of vehicles which do NOT stop at the railway crossings when the alarm bells and warning lights are operating. These days it seems that it is up to the engine driver to somehow get the vehicles to stop so that the train can proceed over the road crossing safely.



Joe recently spent a lot of time overhauling the whistle and getting it back into the best possible operating condition, accepting that it is a certain number of years old!

## *Bridge Maintenance.*

Although this may not strictly be classed as a “workshop” activity (the last time that I looked there were not any bridges in the workshop apart from the pit covers), some preparation for bridge work has to be carried out in the workshop.



Spotted recently were these “timber clamps” being manufactured in accordance with approved engineering drawings to be fitted as part of the bridge maintenance over the Winter period.

## *Wa165 Maintenance.*

The side tanks and boiler have all been drained and those boiler plugs which have sacrificial anodes fitted to them have been removed to enable new anodes to be fitted.



These sacrificial anodes help combat internal chemical deterioration of the boiler.

The cardboard box on the right contains new “anodes” waiting to be fitted to the boiler plugs.

As can be seen, they certainly do wear down during the operating season.

Another means of keeping the boiler in good working order is the use of Amosite & Drewphos (from Solenis) which we add to the water in the boiler.

*Thanks to Andrew Dine at [Solenis NZ](#) for their continuing support.*



About ½ tonne of coal was also shovelled out of the engine and then the coal hopper was hosed out ready to be inspected for any deterioration or necessary maintenance.

# Fund Raising

Any ideas to Sally please, no matter how off-beat they may seem!

## Snippets

The plans for a Murder Mystery train trip in October appear to revolve around steam punk!

If you are new to this concept, check out the Oamaru Steampunk HQ at [www.steampunkoamaru.co.nz](http://www.steampunkoamaru.co.nz) to get an idea of what it is about.

\*\*\*\*\*

That's it for this newsletter!

If you have anything to put in the next newsletter, please let me know. Any ideas welcome.

Graeme Scott